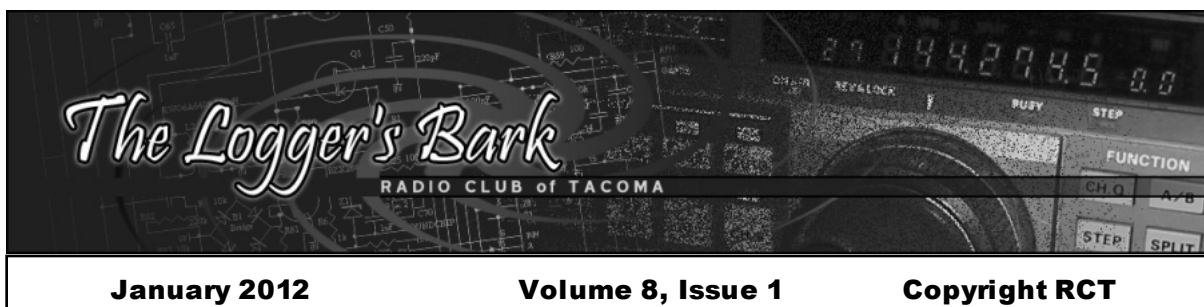




January 2012

Volume 8, Issue 1

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**Board Meeting
4 January 2012**

The 4 January 2012 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. Vice President Casey Hicks WY7V called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Vice President	Casey Hicks WY7V
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board Member	Nick Winter K7MO
Board Member	Crystal Quamme K7XK
Board Member	Al Ferguson N7OMS
Board Member	Paul Amschler KE7WTK
Board Member	Glen Galati KA7BOJ

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 11 names on the attendance roster.

Minutes:

The minutes of the 7 December Board meeting as coordinated, were approved without objection.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: There was a SK report for Leonard Livingston, whose obituary indicates had been a member of the Radio Club of Tacoma.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry KD4VOM

Correspondence:

Membership Applications
Marsh Liability Insurance policy
QSL Cards
December Bank Statements
Salmon Run Pledges

A copy of the current correspondence log is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Larry KD4VOM reported the main checking account balance.

It was moved, seconded and passed to authorize the treasure to pay all normal and recurring club bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Repeater Committee: - Nick K7MO

Nick Winter K7MO reports their trip to work on the Crawford Mountain 147.38 repeater was foiled by a lock that was not in the chain. There are plans to try again this weekend. Nick also reported that he has parts to upgrade the 145.21 repeater and plans to access the Bates tower location, but there may be problems with getting in.

Nick also reports that what they thought were power supply problems with the 440 repeater at the clubhouse are not, and he plans to take the gear to his bench at home to continue troubleshooting.

Property Management: -

Frank AC7JY sent an input through Larry KD4VOM to remind folks that the Property Management folks will have tables at the upcoming Mike and Key Hamfest. He asks that club managers review our equipment holdings to determine if there are items which might be sold. Frank also recommended the club replace its aging 2 meter radio with a dual band unit.

Membership: Karl K7KHJ has already completed the printing of the membership renewal letters. Karl will make the needed labels and Larry KD4VOM will acquire the envelopes and set up a mail stuffing party over the next two weeks.

Karl has updated the membership application/renewal form and there are current copies on the bulletin board. The new form reflects a price increase for badges to \$ 13.00 due to increased expenses to purchase, package and mail the badges.

Please get rid of any old membership application forms.

Emergency Power Generator Replacement:
Nick K7MO recommends a separate meeting to present and discuss his report.

The Board agreed to schedule a Board Meeting for 17 January to receive and discuss Nick's generator report.

Training: Technician Class 7/8 January

Facilities Remodel Committee: – Al N7OMS

Al reports that reinstalling the molding is likely next on the remodeling plan. There were discussions about the possible impacts of the recently proposed Emergency Operations Plan which could change some of the cabling requirements and runs.

RCT Information Technology Committee:
Crystal Quamme K7XK –

The full committee has not met recently, but Randy WB4SPB reports several coordination efforts with Don K7OG.

Emergency Operations Plan:

Ken Gibson N7ELF presented an overview of the plan which had been distributed earlier to the Board and interested parties. Ken reviewed the purpose and expected evolution of the Club's involvement in Emergency Operations.

There were several questions, comments and recommendations relative to the plan.

Clarification is needed to reflect the relationship of Operators and club engineering and maintenance personnel in the maintenance of RCT equipment used for Emergency Communications

The provision of funding for EmComm leader training should be revised to reflect the club's option to determine if training funding can be provided.

The Plan should incorporate CW and other mode capabilities with the decision of the board as to what capabilities may be funded or provided.

There was a request for defining the Information Technology requirements to support the IT committee's efforts in their work to establish an IT plan and configuration for the club.

Several have expressed an interest in visiting other emergency operating centers and station to evaluate their operations and communications infrastructures. Pierce County DEM, Thurston County EOC, the Olympia OARS operations and the Gig Harbor EOC are candidates for visits.

Addition of 80 meters to the Plan's envisioned operating frequencies was recommended

There was a recommendation to add 6 meters to the frequency mix, which would provide technician licensees' additional capabilities.

Larry KD4VOM asked the attendees to provide their inputs by e-mail, stating the numbered section and language they would revise, the language of their revised text, and the rationale for the recommended change/s.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RCT Bylaws Revision: Larry
KD4VOM currently tabled

NEW BUSINESS:

CERT Repeater Use: John Clarke AC7WW has requested once a month use of the 147.28 repeater on Mondays in support of the Tacoma Fire district CERT amateur radio net.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize interim use of the repeater as requested pending receipt of an acceptable Memorandum of Agreement by the March Board Meeting.

Workshop Wednesdays: Al N7OMS formalized his plan to hold clubhouse workshops on the off Wednesdays. This program is intended to help members improve their amateur radio skills. Al plans a notice for the next BARK.

Straight Key Night: **Randy Myers WB4SPB** reported that over thirty attended Straight Key night. The HF and Museum stations were both operated in the straight key mode. Lots of food and refreshments were consumed. Some of the CW class did some copy work and at least one actually sent a CQ...

HF Radio Purchase: Frank AC7JY has offered an Icom 756 Pro II to the club for \$1,800.00 from an estate that he is handling. There were some early questions about the transceiver having an issue on 80 meters. Nick K7MO ran some testing and evaluation and determined that there were no problems with the Pro III, but rather with some re-radiation in the club's antennas/feed lines.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to purchase the Icom 756 Pro III for the Club's HF room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Straight Key Century Club Event: Al N7OMS announced the club is planning to participate in the Straight Key Century Club K3Y special event. [K3Y is a month long special event celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the Straight Key Century Club. It starts at the stroke of midnight ushering in the new year 2011 and ends at 2359 on January 31, 2011.](#)

Security and Access: Bruce W7EP will review and update the Security, Access and Alarm system listing to reflect changes in authorization.

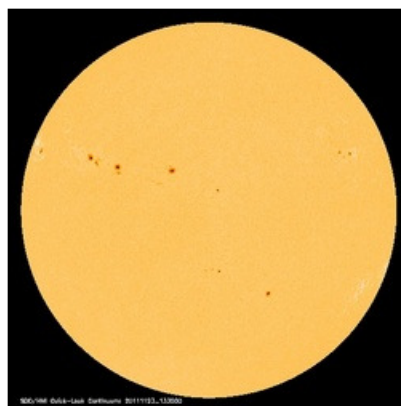
DISCUSSION TOPICS:

BARK mailing costs: Steve AD7VL raised the issue surfaced by John AC7WW on the costs associated with mailing the BARK. Depending on the size of the BARK printing and mailing costs could be up to \$22.00 per person per year. It is costing the club around \$ 63.00 per month to mail copies to the 35 currently listed members.

Although no decision was reached, the Board agreed to explore options such as asking members to voluntarily supplement the cost of having the BARK mailed to them.

Board Actions by Electronic means: **Larry KD4VOM** presented information relative to the use of electronic means (e.g. email) to conduct Board business and take Board Actions. State law permits limited use of electronic means with multiple controls/caveats. Larry will continue to explore what the Board might legally be able to do to handle time sensitive actions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm



**Remembering Alfred Williams
K7PUC:****By Worth Gurley, W7WG**

I picked up the phone and dialed Al's number in Olympia to confirm the time that we were to pick him up. We had planned to drive together to the annual Seaside, Oregon ARRL Amateur Radio Convention that weekend. Al had been spending many hours, over many days, weeks, and months on the scheduled presentation of his new, logical, approach to the drawing of schematics of electronic circuits, for both radio amateurs and commercial applications. He was challenging the establishment and he was quite excited and looking forward to his presentation at Seaside.



Al K7PUC and Morel W6LIX Discuss stuff, Field Day 2006

Instead of Al, the phone was picked up by his son, Nathan, and daughter-in-law, Yoshie. They informed me that Al had fallen, hit his head, and had gone to the hospital. He recovered, but later on in the summer, had to return to the hospital again in July. My daughter and I visited Al in the hospital and in a nursing home in August, but he remained weak until his passing. His sons and daughters in law were by his side the entire time.

My "old days" with Al started in the 1980's when my late wife, Marian, and I were invited by Mountaineer friends, Will and Timmie Squire, to a North Cascades camping trip. Al and his wife, Shirley, were one of the couples on that trip. Al was among the few of us who hiked up toward the ridge. About the time we emerged from the forest, a couple hundred feet below the ridge, Al decided to return to our camp on the river to play cards with the members who had remained there. At that point, he revealed to me that he, too, was a ham, and that he had his small 2 meter rig with him, as I did. Later in camp, Al was able to keep in contact with us as we hiked along the ridge: our first radio QSO!

A few weeks later, my wife Marian and I were invited for dinner at the Williams' lovely home in Kirkland, where Al had neatly and efficiently set up a very impressive amateur station K7PUC, a workshop, and photo lab. Shirley had cooked a wonderful meal. For many years, until retirement, Al had commuted from there to the Renton Boeing plant, where he was an electronics engineer. He headed a group working to bring the electronic design of flight instrument panels into the emerging digital age, for several models of Boeing planes.

Years earlier, when every economic activity seemed down and someone put up the notice, "The last person out of Seattle, turn out the lights!" Al and family moved to Arizona where he worked for Hughes Aircraft for several years until being rehired by Boeing.

Not many weeks after visiting them, we got the shocking news that his wife, Shirley, had died. A few weeks later Al started to look for another home where there would be lots of room for antennas, but also close to a bus stop. He had developed a nervous reaction which made driving, especially at night, very difficult. His search took him all over western Washington, even consider-

ing a couple of communities in the east side of the state, all to no avail. For awhile, Al got on every evening Whiskey Group to tell me of his fruitless search of the day.

Suddenly one evening, he triumphantly revealed that after contacting many real estate agents over several weeks, who had shown him a rather inappropriate selection of homes, he discovered a different realtor down in Olympia. This new realtor suddenly thought of a place that had been languishing in their listings for a long time with no interest to anyone. It was 7 acres, with no development possibility. With Al it was "love at first sight", as it included lots of wetlands, perfect for long antenna systems, a house with huge storage areas, and a location two blocks from a bus stop. It also was a short drive to downtown Olympia, including the Governor and the Legislature. It had a pond with two beautiful, but irascible, white swans, and a large cleared area on a high area, perfect for a large garden.

Al had his dream location! At the time, our circle of friends included a couple whose family name was "Squire", but we told Al he was the real squire with his manor house and estate!

Al had barely moved in when he started his series of wonderful Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays, and radio contest gatherings at this beautiful mansion with the large, old-fashioned dining table extended to accommodate all of his friends. Often, one person, almost reluctantly, worked the contest, while the rest gathered around the table loaded with delicious goodies, enjoying the camaraderie and the banquet.... much more sumptuous than the Sweepstakes contest!

He bought a small Japanese tractor and associated farm machinery to cultivate a large part of the cleared land above the house. Each year, he involuntarily shared the excellent crops with the deer, and each year Al made the fence higher. This year Al finally won. The fence was higher than the deer could jump. Fortunately, Alfred really enjoyed this beautiful, comfortable home. Unfortunately, no longer is there an Al to enjoy his bountiful crops and lovely estate. We and the deer will miss him very much.

I love to recall two or three trips Al and I took together. On the anniversary of the eruption of Mt St Helens our Radio Club of Tacoma formed an expedition to its reserved spot near Cold Water Gap which had a panoramic view of the present mountain to operate as WA7ASH, permitted by the owner, an Oregonian. Several Club members with their own RV's or tents arrived Friday night and were operating with that call as a special events station on various bands when Al and I arrived in cool, foggy weather early Saturday morning. We set up Al's mobile station in his VW van, using his special mobile antenna, on 20, 40, possibly 15, meters with rather poor results, all day long. Some of the other members with their portable beams had done ok, but with no great pile-ups. The thick fog persisted all day. St Helens, modestly, remained out of sight, completely covered by her thick cloak. Earlier, the ranger had told the club leaders that their permit covered only one night, Friday, and that all members were to leave the Park boundary by dark that evening, Saturday. Al persuaded the ranger to allow us to stay until 10 PM, so that we could meet the Whiskey Group on schedule at 9PM on the 75 meter band.

Just as the last of our departing group cleared the camping area, the fog lifted. There was Mt St Helens across the valley in all her tattered glory, highlighted by rays from the setting sun! Only Al and I were left to enjoy the awe-inspiring vista.

In the twilight we put up a piece of my fine, black wire as an inverted V dipole, using the only piece of wood on the cleared hillside, a rather tattered 7 ft limb, to hold up the center, with the ends tied to strong weeds. We tuned it up. Even though our antenna was very low to the volcanic soil, we got good reports from the Whiskey Group plus a small pile-up of stations wanting to work our St Helens special event station.

The minute 10 PM arrived we had to pack up and drive out of the reservation. This we did, but, unintentionally, left behind some of our antenna wire. About a half hour later we passed through the St Helens reservation's exit gates. A mile farther we found a deserted road in the dark wilderness to park for the night. Al slept in his van. I crawled into my old mummy-bag for a peaceful night's sleep on the side of the road. We awoke to a beautiful, sunny day for our trip back to Olympia.

On another trip I accompanied Alfred on a Radio Club expedition to help the renowned W7RM install his new 75 meter phased verticals system. The Radio Club members arrived down at RM's high tech installation including very high towers, then assisted him to follow his well-engineered plans to erect his vertical quarter wave elements with several fellows on each rope. However, when W7RM tested his new vertical by applying his full power, a neighbor down the road, right across from the new antennas, called the sheriff, complaining of harassment. She said that her front room lights suddenly were spontaneously flashing weirdly.

RM sent our Brian from the Radio Club, who in his real life dealt with the public, to calm down the lady and assure her there were no subversive activities going on, just plain amateur radio hobby experiments which would not alarm the FBI at all.

Shortly after that, W7RM himself, as he backed out of his garage, did not see the rather new Mercedes parked in the blind spot of the rear mirrors. There was a crunching sound! The injured auto belonged to Brian, who had just calmed the neighbor lady. At this point Al said, "It's time we go home!"

During the large gatherings in his home Alfred had to extend his large family- dining table even further with extra card tables. One person, often none, continued operating the radio while everyone else continued enjoying the feast.

Al's place became our Shangri-La, our retreat from worldly troubles. Before contests such as a CW sweepstakes, Al would spend many weeks trimming up the programming of his contesting software, even continuing during the contest. He would not even try to get the highest score, but would try to get all states or all sections, actually filling maps comparing his results each year with former years. In effect, he was competing with himself, using his engineering precision, keeping very accurate records!

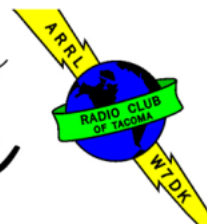
Al touched our lives and the lives of many, many others. We all will miss him!

The Author: Worth Gurley, W7WG pictured at right also at Field day 2006. Worth is a long-time member of the Radio Club of Tacoma.





The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



The Logger's Bark is the **OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA...** and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

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ADVERTISE in the BARK: \$60.00 full page, \$30.00 half page, \$15.00 quarter page, \$5.00 business card size. These charges offset the publishing and USPS mailing costs.

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

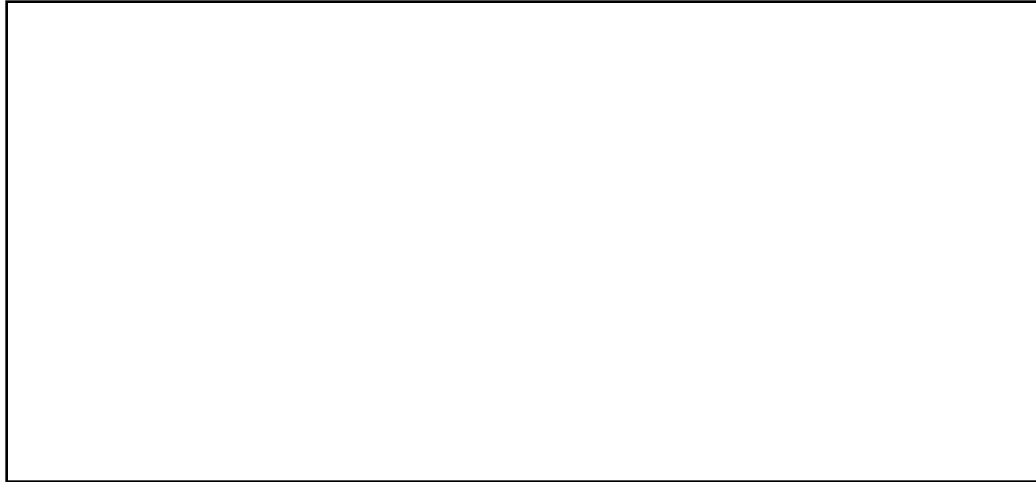
Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 **Central Tacoma Packet:** 144.970

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



January 2012 Events

CLUB MEETINGS: Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend.

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz.